



THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

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Fantastic

39
JUNE

MARVEL
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GROUP 12¢

FOUR

**A
BLIND MAN
SHALL
LEAD THEM!**



THE FABULOUS F. F. REACH OUT IN DESPERATION, ONLY TO FIND...

"A BLIND MAN SHALL LEAD THEM!"

LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND THEM JUST IN TIME! THEY COULDN'T HAVE LASTED MUCH LONGER ON THE OPEN SEA!

TAKE EM TO THE INFIRMARY! THE MEDICS ARE STANDIN' BY TO DO WHAT THEY CAN!

EASY WITH HER, MATE! I'LL LEND YOU A HAND!

LAST ISSUE, WE SAW THE F. F. NARROWLY ESCAPE DEATH ON A LONELY ISLE WHEN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OCCURRED!

WHILE THEIR DEADLY ENEMIES, THE WINGLESS WIZARD, SANDMAN, THE TRAPSTER, AND MADAM MEDUSA, WHO CHOOSE TO CALL THEMSELVES THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR, ESCAPED WITH SECONDS TO SPARE, REED, BEN, SUE, AND JOHNNY TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF THE EXPLOSION, PROTECTED ONLY BY SUE STORM'S LIFE- SAVING INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!

FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS, THE F. F. DRIFT HELPLESSLY ON THE HIGH SEAS, UNTIL A SEARCHING ATOMIC SUB FINDS THEM AT LAST...

ONE OF THE MOST STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT F. F. SAGAS YOU HAVE EVER READ!

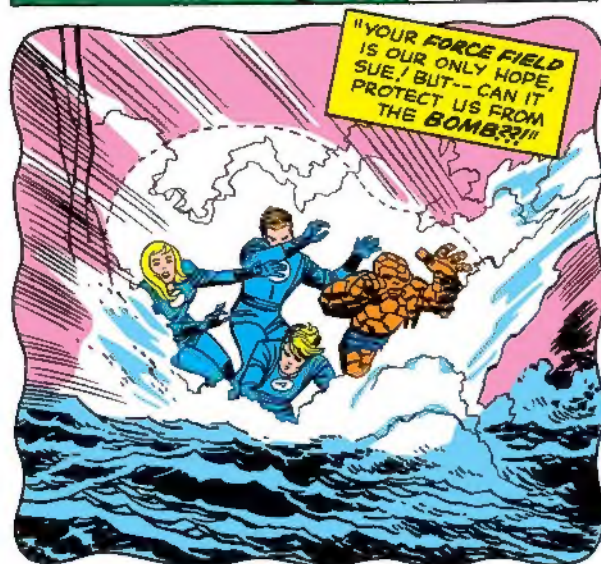
SPLENDIDOROUS STORY BY:
STAN LEE

DELECTABLE DRAWINGS BY:
JACK KIRBY

DELICIOUS DELINEATION BY:
FRANK RAY

LACONIC LETTERING BY:
ARTIE SIMEK







FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE VOYAGE HOME, LITTLE IS SAID AMONG THE FOUR DOWN-HEARTED ADVENTURERS! THERE IS LITTLE THAT *CAN* BE SAID, UNTIL THEY RETURN TO REED'S WORLD-FAMOUS LAB, EACH WRAPPED UP IN HIS OWN GLOOMY THOUGHTS-- EACH CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE WITH GRIM FOREBODING!

WHO'RE YOU KIDDIN' WITH ALL THAT RESEARCH? THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO GET OUR POWERS BACK AND YOU *KNOW* IT!

IS IT *TRUE*, DARLING! IS THE FANTASTIC FOUR *FINISHED*--- FOREVER?

NOT IF *I* CAN HELP IT, SUE!

WHY DON'T WE JUST SIT TIGHT AND GIVE OL' REED A *CHANCE*?



FINALLY, AFTER DAYS OF PREPARATION, THEY PLUNGE INTO THEIR NEWEST, THEIR MOST DIFFICULT PROJECT WITH SAVAGE DESPERATION--THE PROJECT THEY CALL: **OPERATION ARTIFICIAL POWERS!**

REED, DARLING, IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!** YOU CAN'T DUPLICATE THE FANTASTIC POWERS WE LOST WHEN THE BOMB'S RADIATION AFFECTED US!

I'VE GOT TO DO IT, SUE! FOR OUR OWN **PROTECTION!** IF OUR ENEMIES EVER LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US, OUR LIVES WON'T BE WORTH A NICKEL!

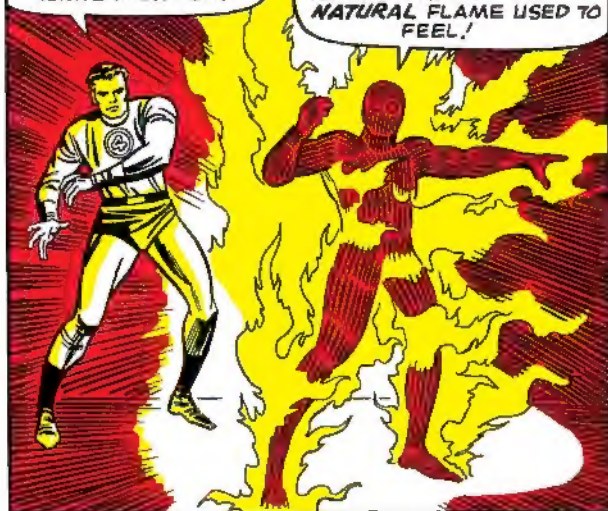


IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I USED TO **LOOK** LIKE THIS ROBOT OF THE **THING!**

IT'S FUNNY WHAT A GUY CAN GET **USED** TO, BEN! I WAS BEGINNIN' TO THINK OL' ORANGE SKIN WAS ACTUALLY **CUTE-LOOKIN'!**

CUT THE CONVERSATION--**ALL** OF YOU! EVERY MINUTE COUNTS! JOHNNY, IGNITE YOUR SUIT!

I'VE GOTTA **HAND** IT TO YOU, REED! THE FLAME JETS IN THIS OUTFIT FEEL ALMOST AS GOOD AS MY OWN **NATURAL** FLAME USED TO FEEL!

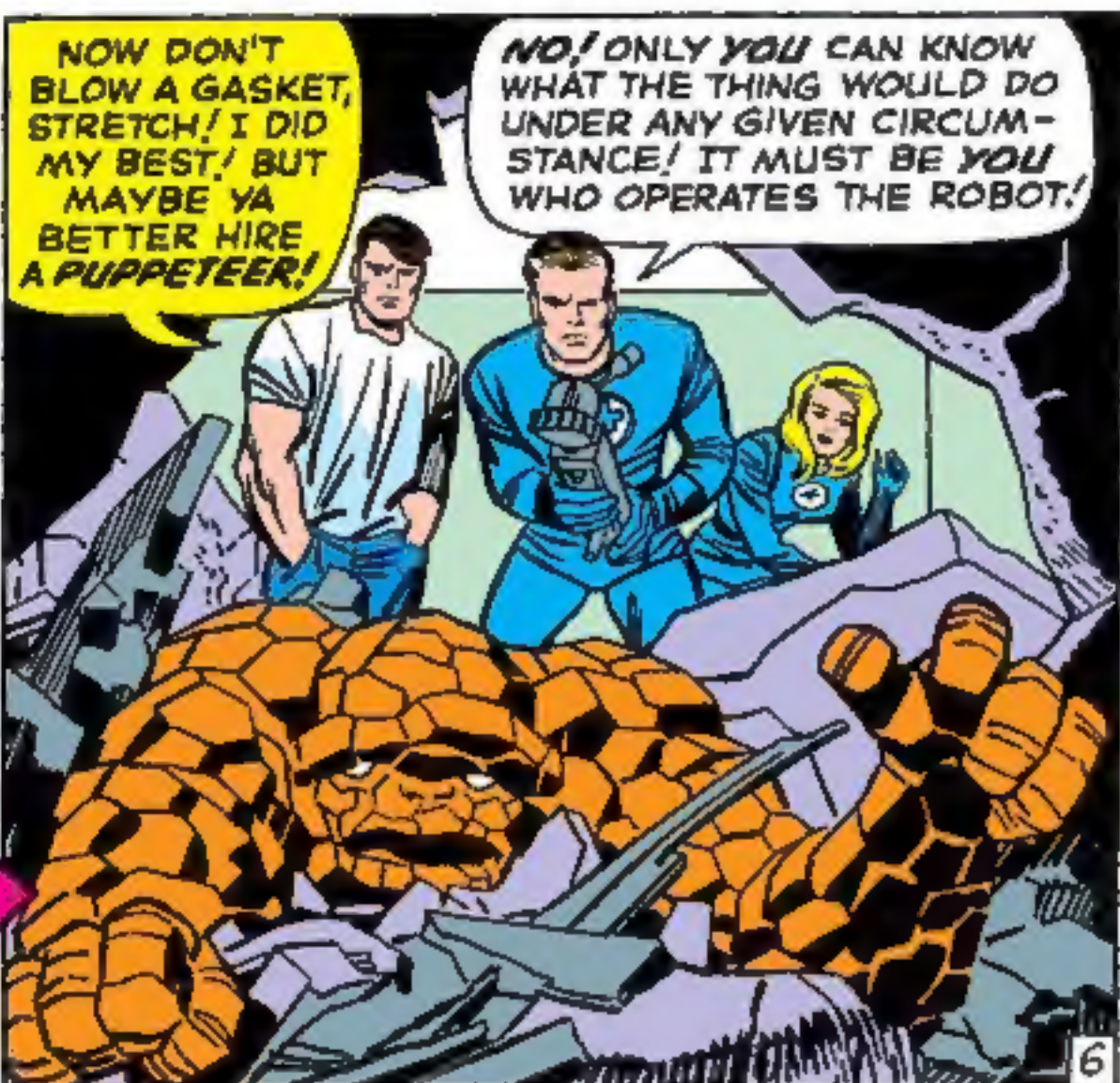
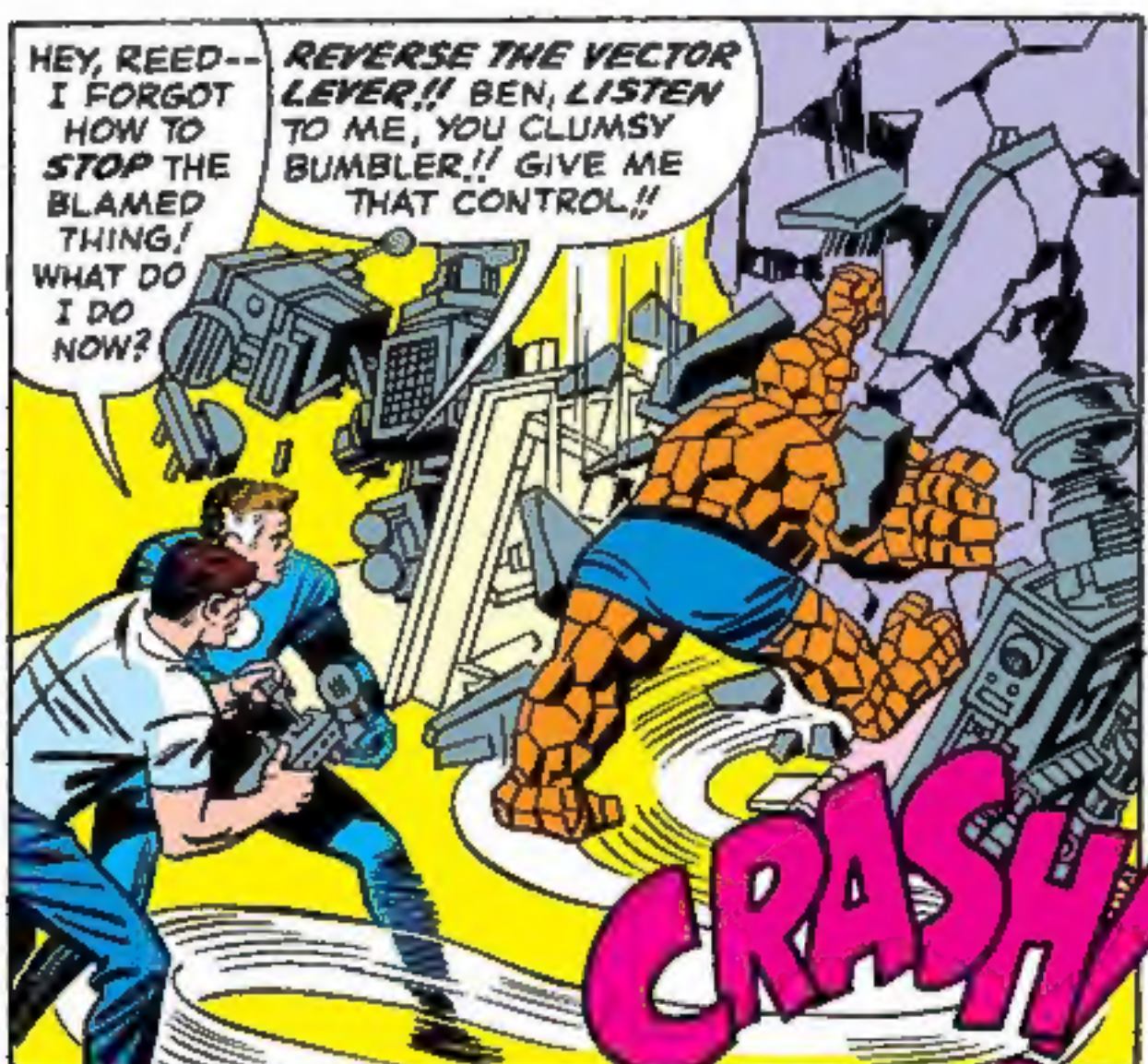
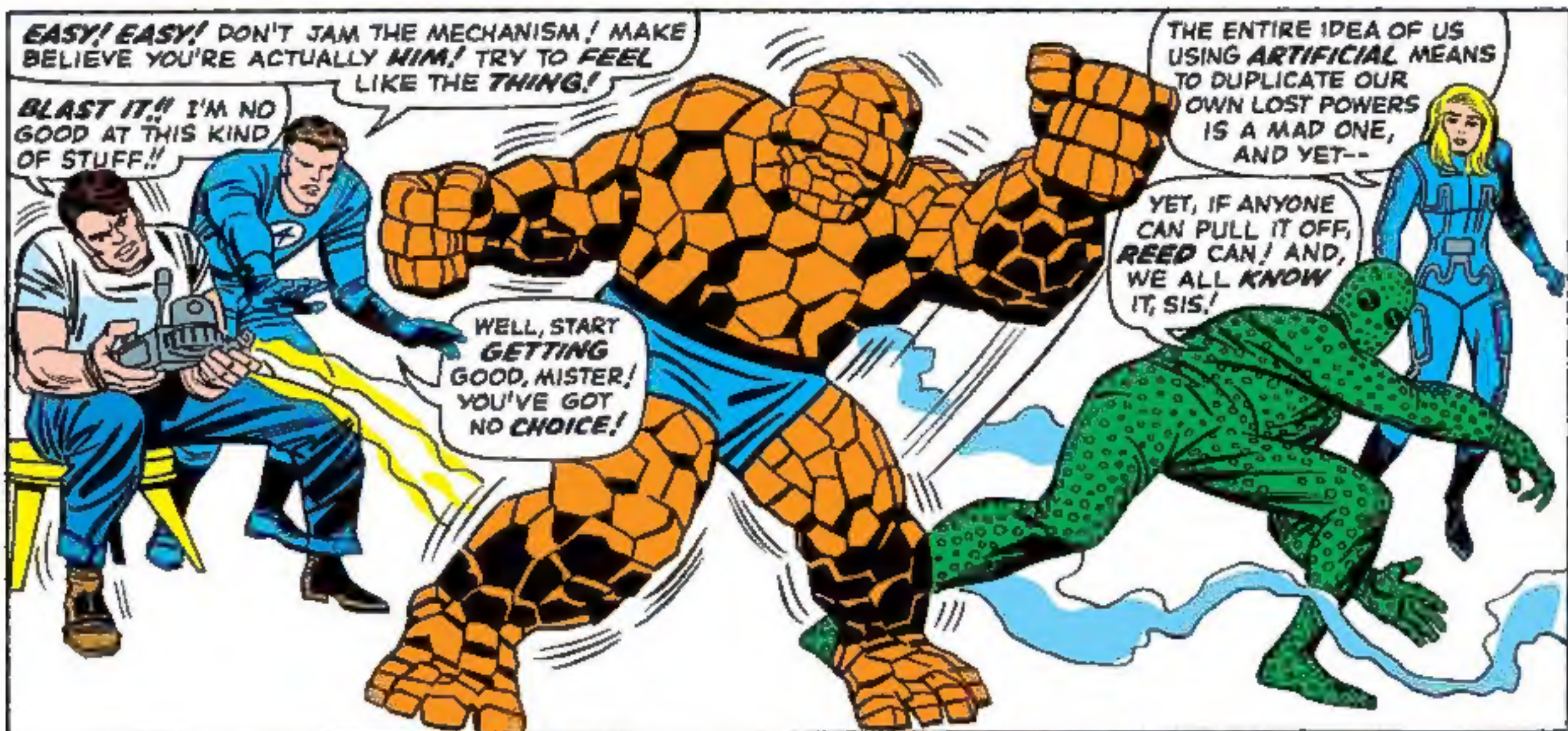


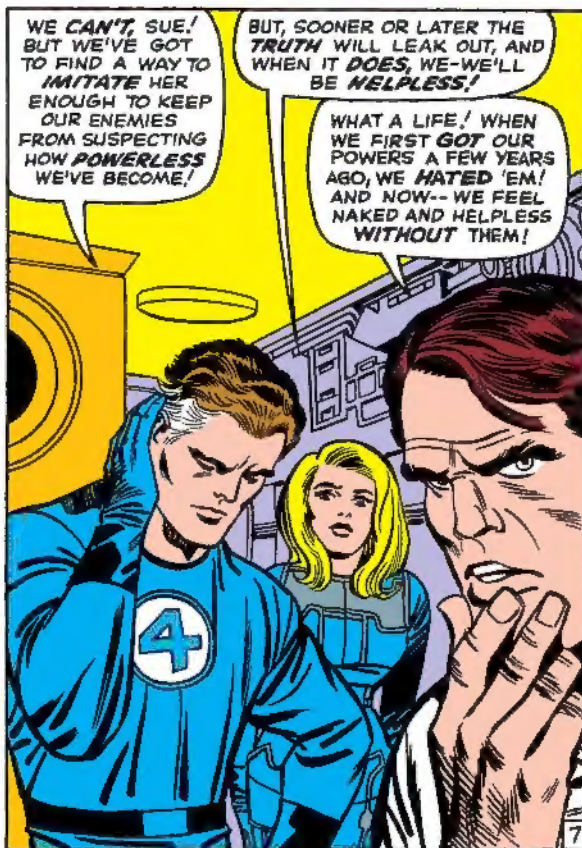
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR **FEELINGS**, BOY! LET ME SEE YOU **FLY!**

WHEW! I'VE NEVER **SEEN** REED SO SERIOUS--OR SO ROUGH! I'D BETTER BUCKLE DOWN!



I-I CAN DO IT-- BUT, IT FEELS KINDA **WOBBLY--!**





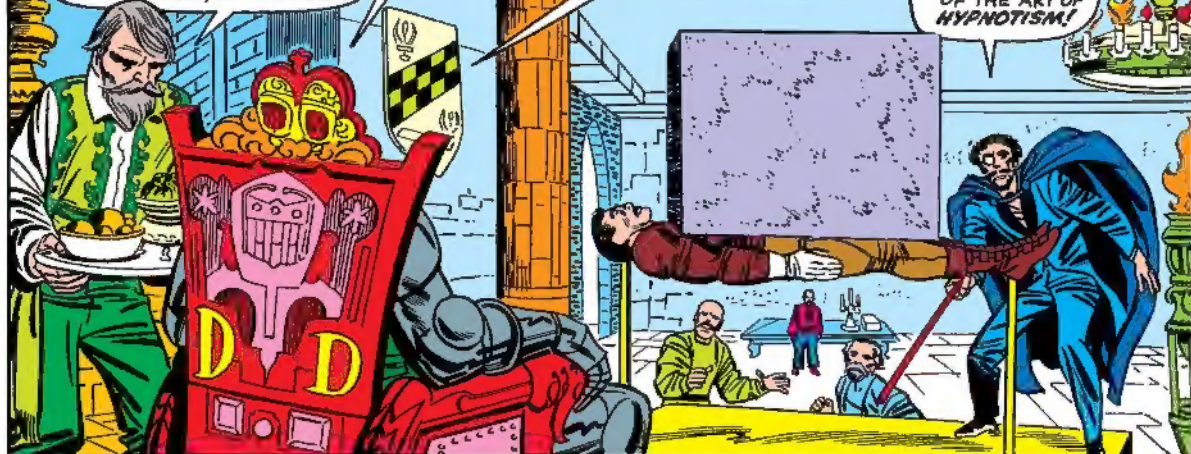
BUT NOW, OUR SCENE CHANGES, AS WE VISIT AN IMPERIAL CASTLE IN THE HEART OF LATVERIA, A TINY KINGDOM NESTLED DEEP WITHIN THE BAVARIAN ALPS...

LEAVE ME! I HAVE NO DESIRE FOR FOOD NOW! THROW IT TO THE PIGS!

AS YOU WISH, EXCELLENCY!

AND YOU, MAGICIAN-- STOP YOUR ACT! I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH! I AM NO LONGER AMUSED BY YOUR AMATEURISH DISPLAY OF MEDIOCRITY!

BUT, SIRE-- I HAVE NOT YET GIVEN MY DEMONSTRATION OF THE ART OF HYPNOTISM!



HYPNOTISM! BAH! CAN SUCH A PETTY TALENT IMPRESS DOCTOR DOOM, THE MAN WHO DEFEATED THE FANTASTIC FOUR!*

BUT FINISH YOUR ACT! AND THEN, BEGONE! YOU BEGIN TO BORE ME!

I SHALL DEMONSTRATE HOW EASILY A SUBJECT MAY BE-- EXCELLENCY! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! YOU ARE ALREADY UNDER HYPNOSIS! I CAN SENSE IT!

BUT, WAIT! I SEEM TO BE DISSOLVING THE SPELL! YOU'RE COMING OUT OF IT!



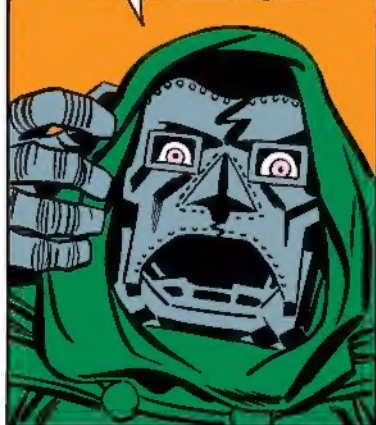
*AS DESCRIBED IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2 "THE FINAL VICTORY OF DOCTOR DOOM."--STAN.

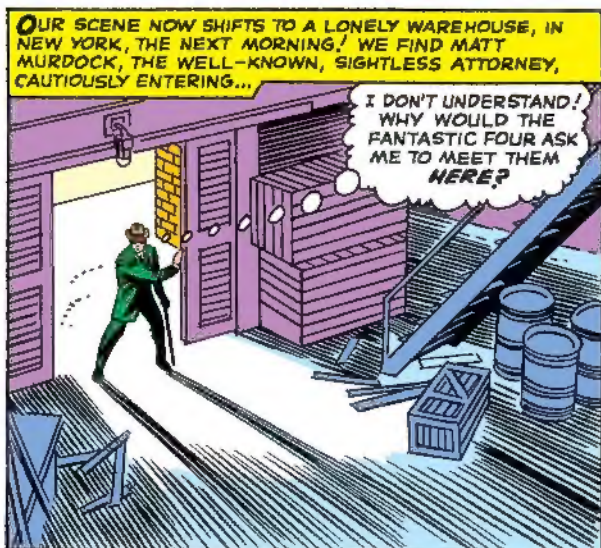
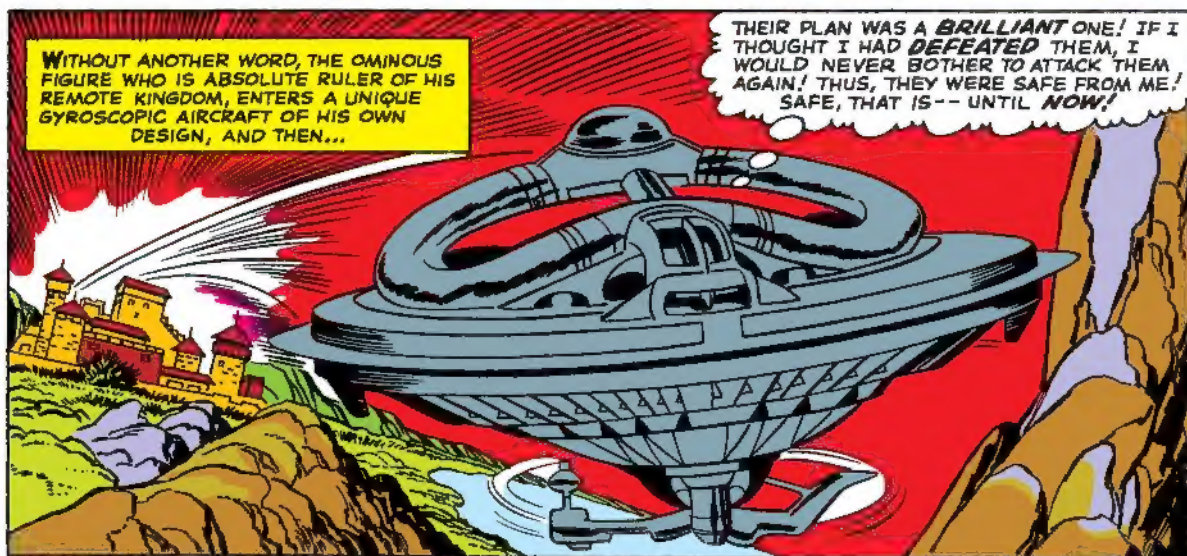
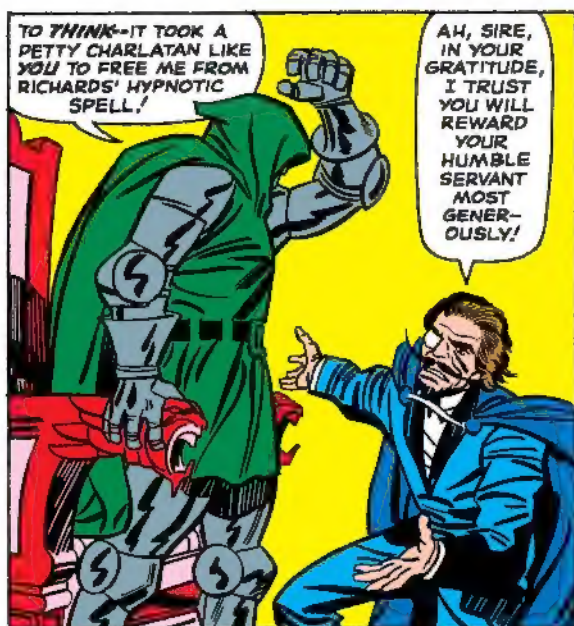


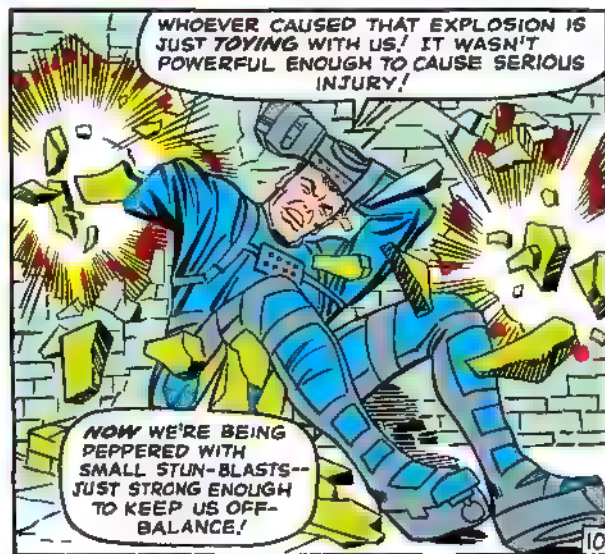
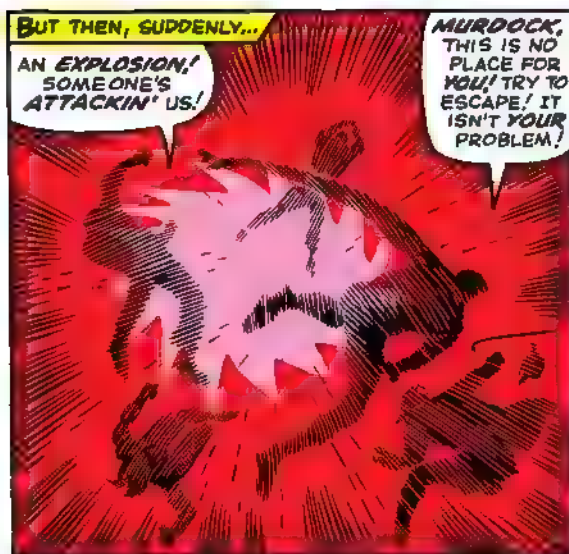
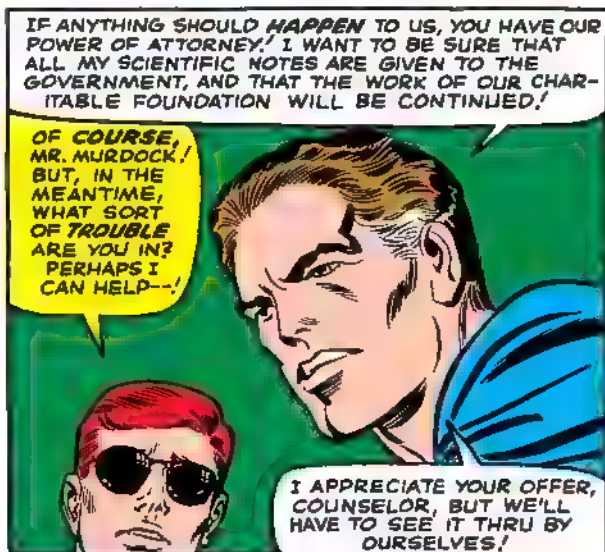
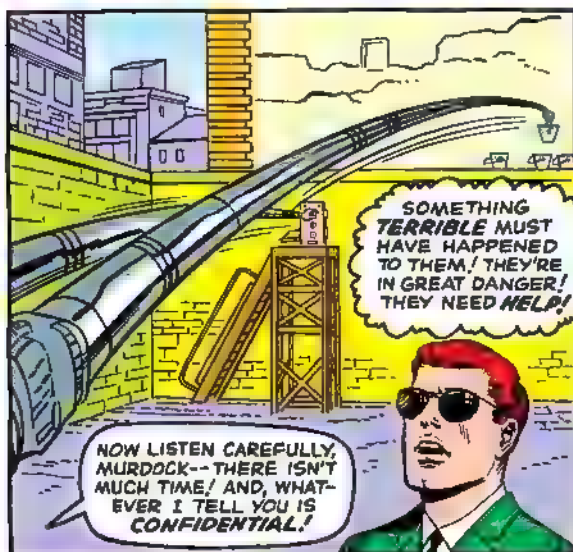
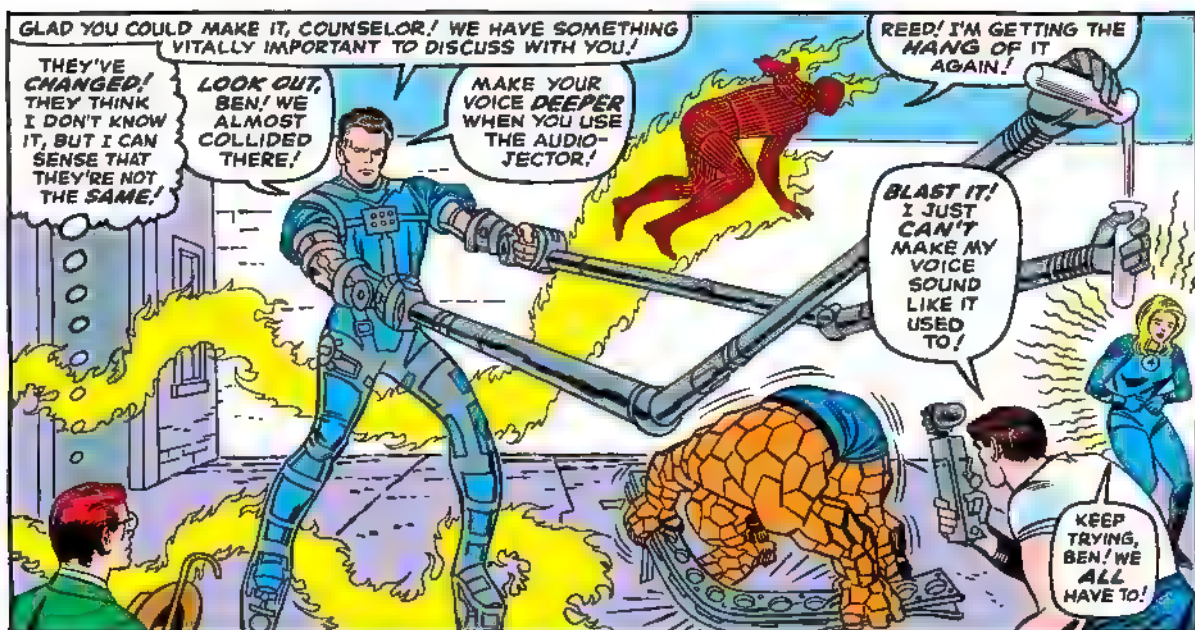
A FOG SEEMS TO BE LIFTING FROM MY BRAIN! SLOWLY, MEMORY IS RETURNING--THAT DAY-- LONG MONTHS AGO-- WHEN I BATTLED REED RICHARDS-- I-I REMEMBER NOW--

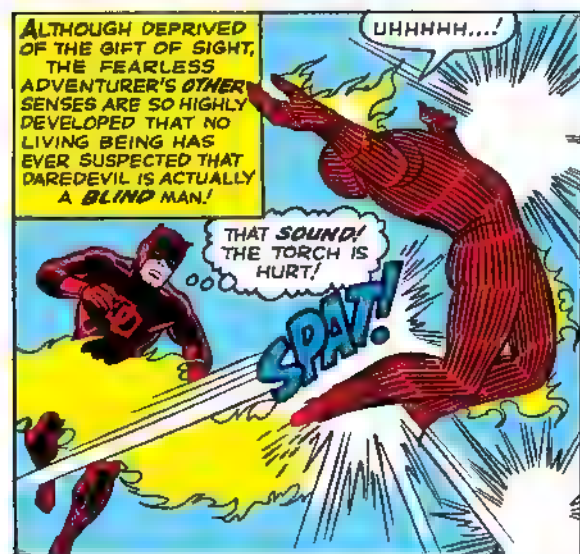
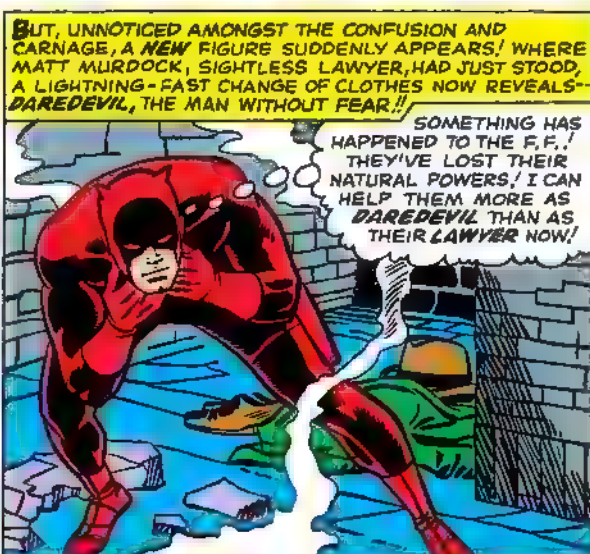
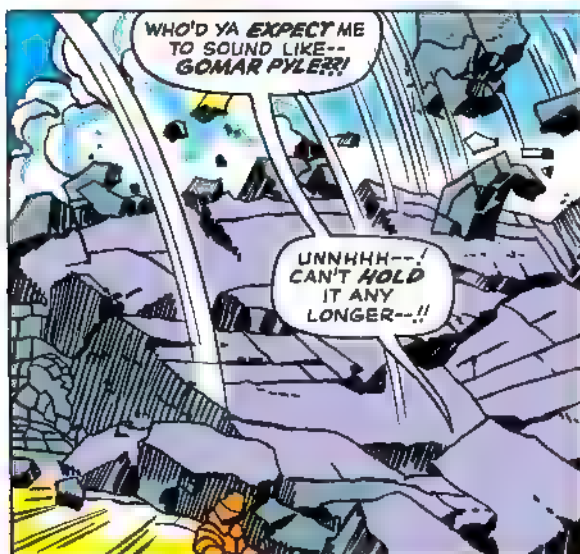
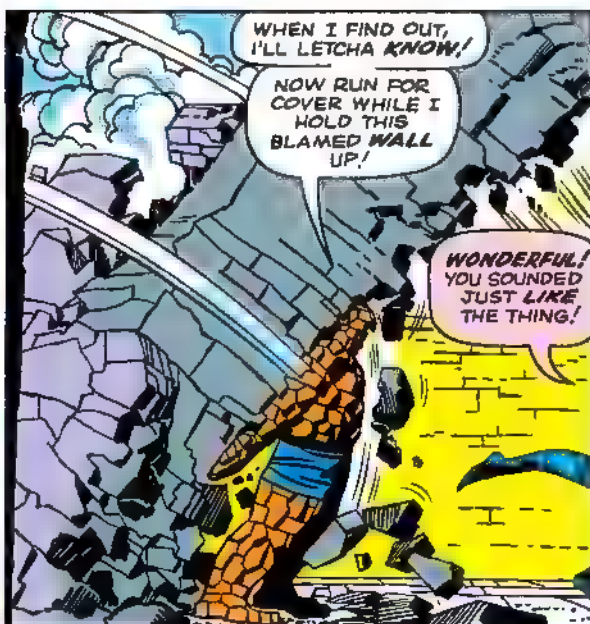
HE TRICKED ME! I DIDN'T DEFEAT HIM! HE ONLY HYPNOTIZED ME TO THINK I DID-- SO THAT I WOULD NEVER BATTLE HIM AGAIN!

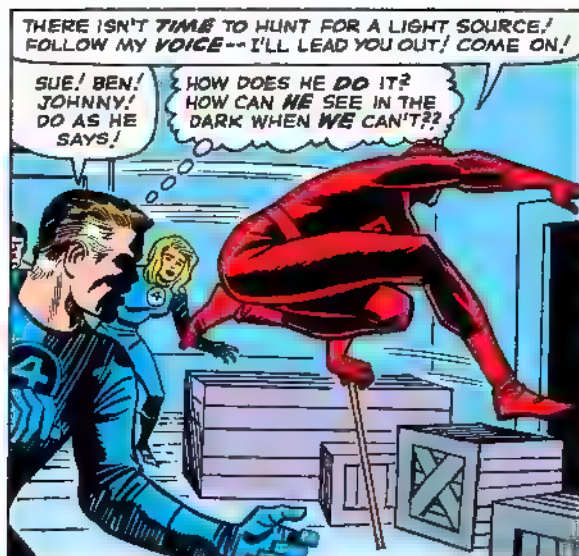
NEVER HAS SUCH INDIGNITY BEEN HEAPED UPON DOCTOR DOOM!! ONLY DEATH CAN AVENGE THIS INSULT-- THE DEATH OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!



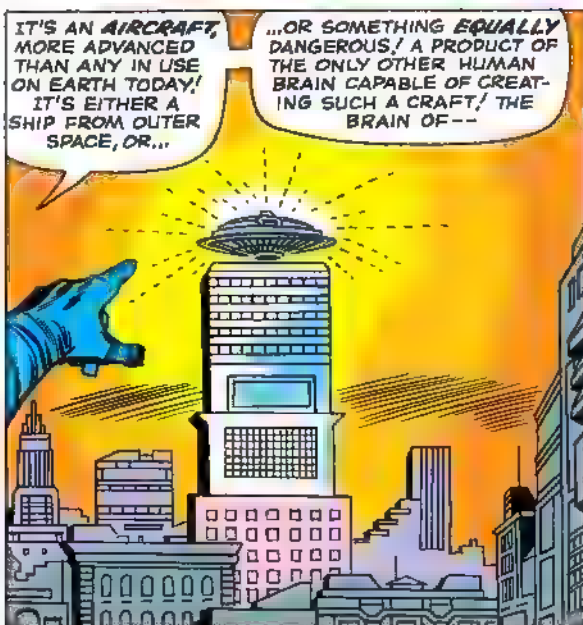


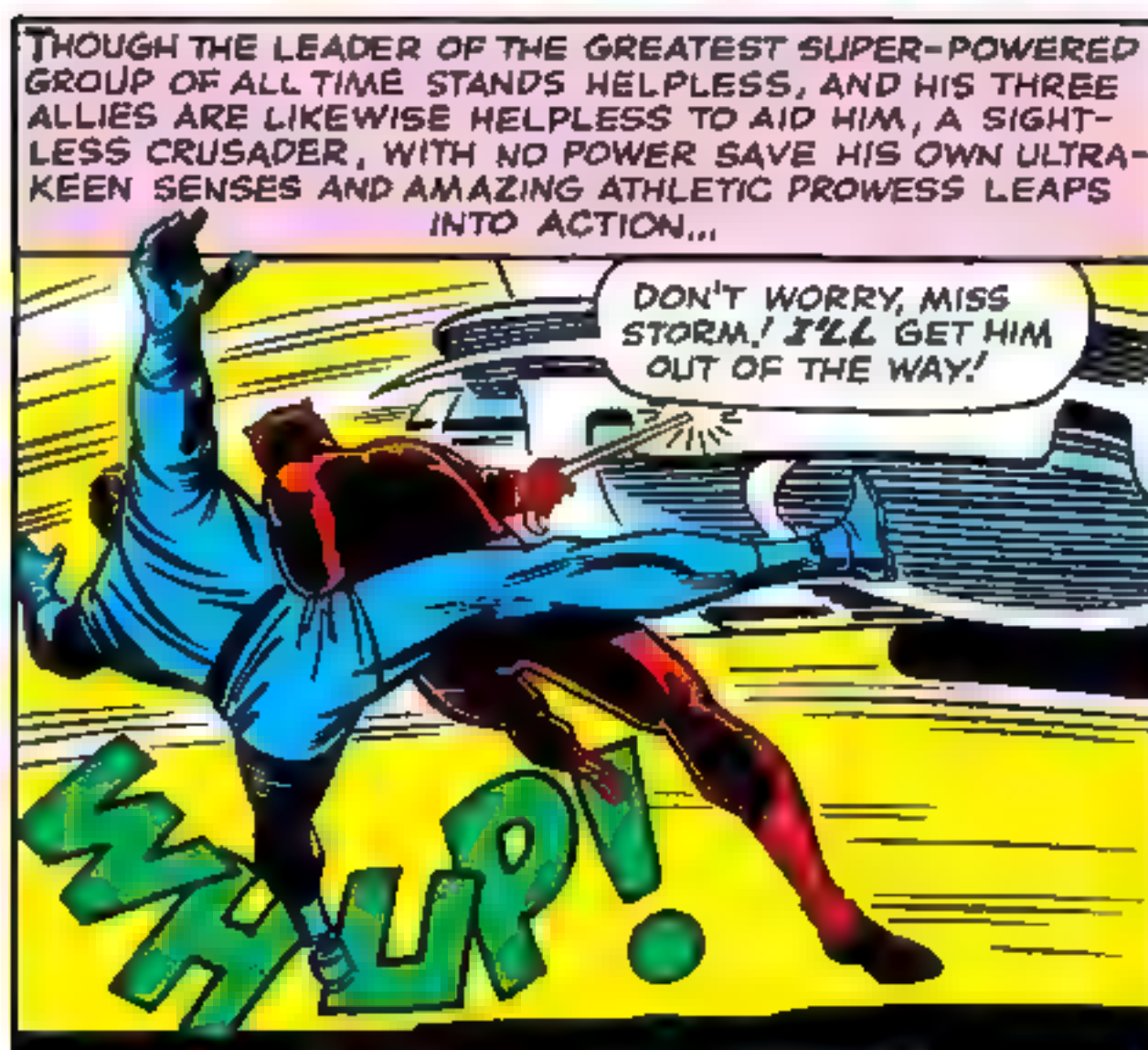
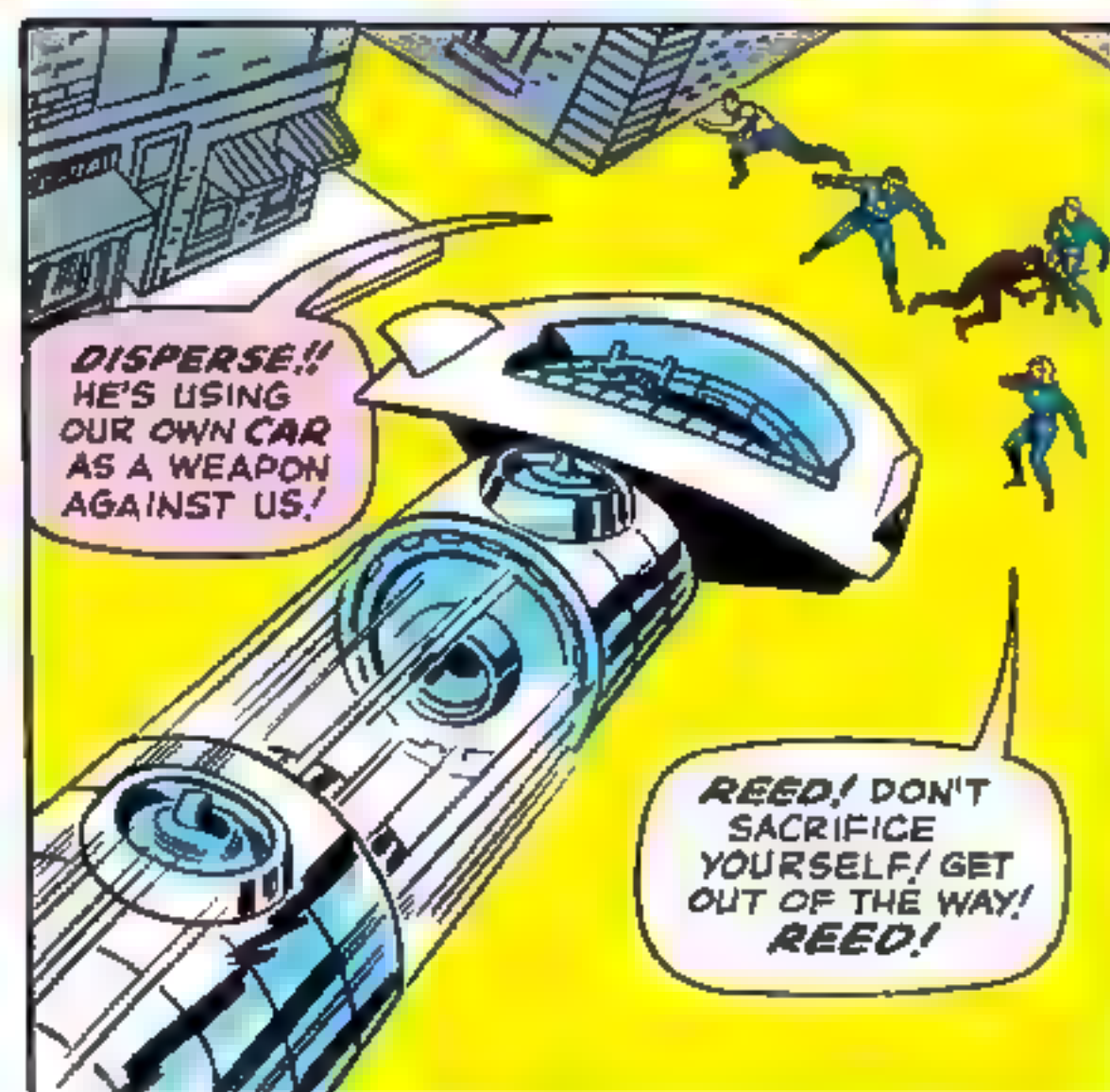
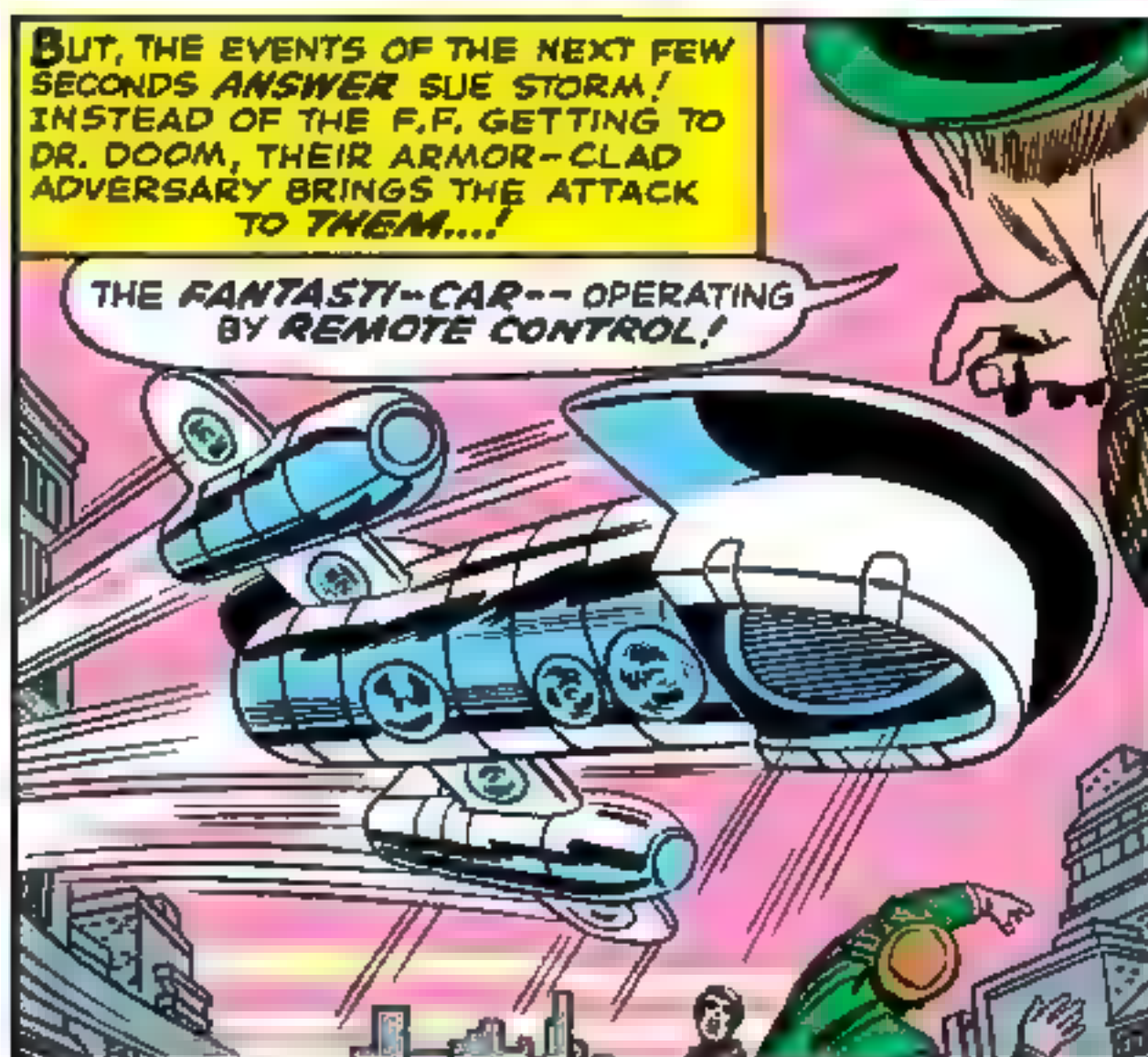




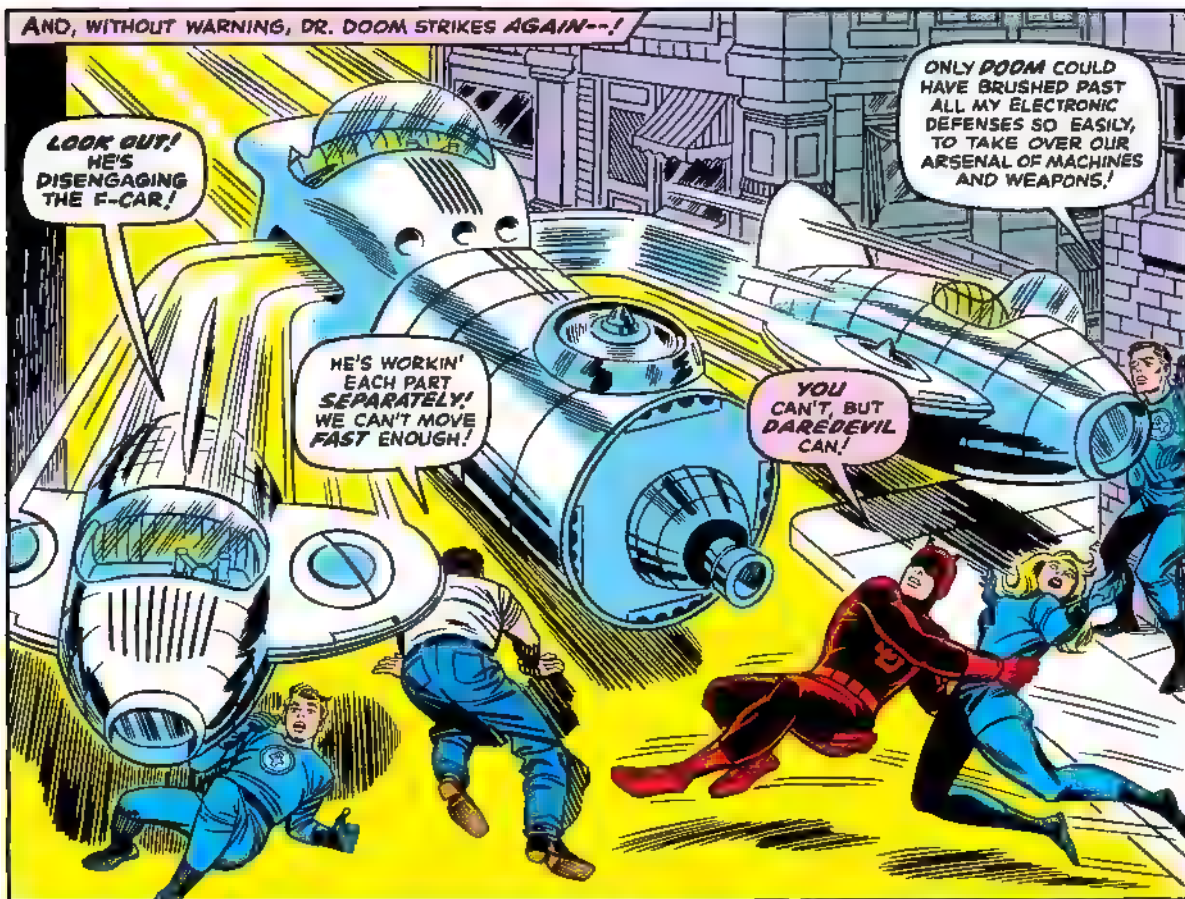


BUT, GUIDED BY HIS INFALLIBLE **RADAR SENSE**, DAREDEVIL GUIDES THE VALIANT QUARTET OUT OF THE BESIEGED WAREHOUSE! THEN, GAZING SKYWARD, THEY SUDDENLY DISCOVER...





AND, WITHOUT WARNING, DR. DOOM STRIKES AGAIN--!



LOOK OUT!
HE'S
DISENGAGING
THE F-CAR!

HE'S WORKIN'
EACH PART
SEPARATELY!
WE CAN'T MOVE
FAST ENOUGH!

YOU
CAN'T, BUT
DAREDEVIL
CAN!

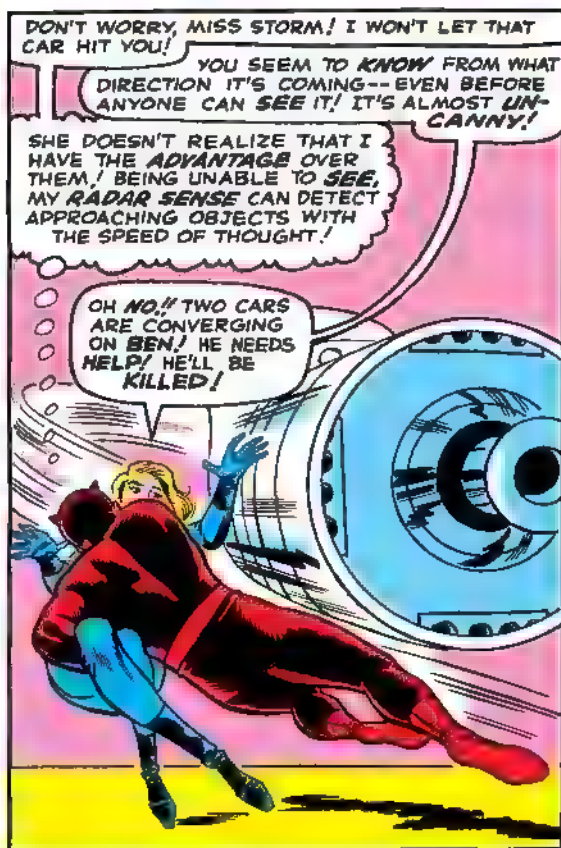
ONLY DOOM COULD
HAVE BRUSHED PAST
ALL MY ELECTRONIC
DEFENSES SO EASILY,
TO TAKE OVER OUR
ARSENAL OF MACHINES
AND WEAPONS!

DON'T WORRY, MISS STORM! I WON'T LET THAT
CAR HIT YOU!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW FROM WHAT
DIRECTION IT'S COMING--EVEN BEFORE
ANYONE CAN SEE IT! IT'S ALMOST UN-
CANNY!

SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I
HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OVER
THEM! BEING UNABLE TO SEE,
MY RADAR SENSE CAN DETECT
APPROACHING OBJECTS WITH
THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!

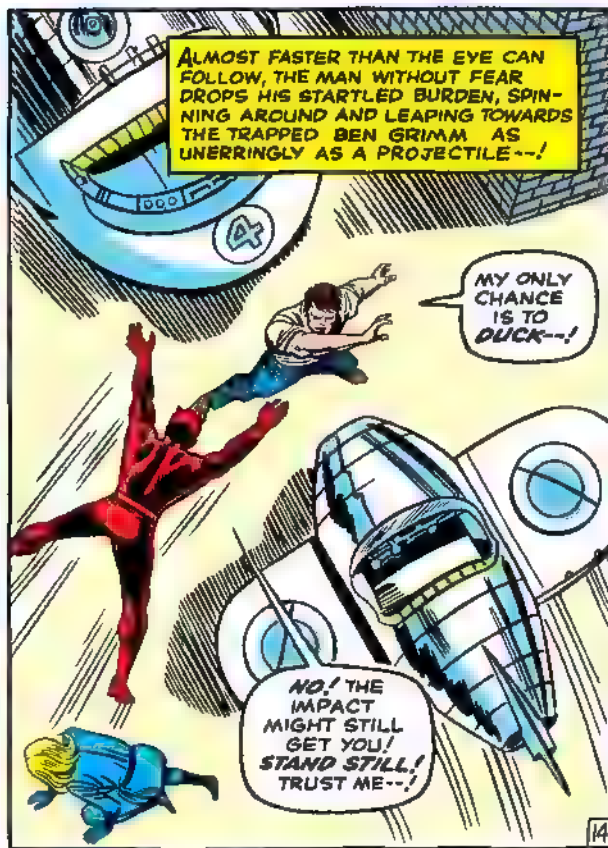
OH NO!! TWO CARS
ARE CONVERGING
ON BEN! HE NEEDS
HELP! HE'LL BE
KILLED!

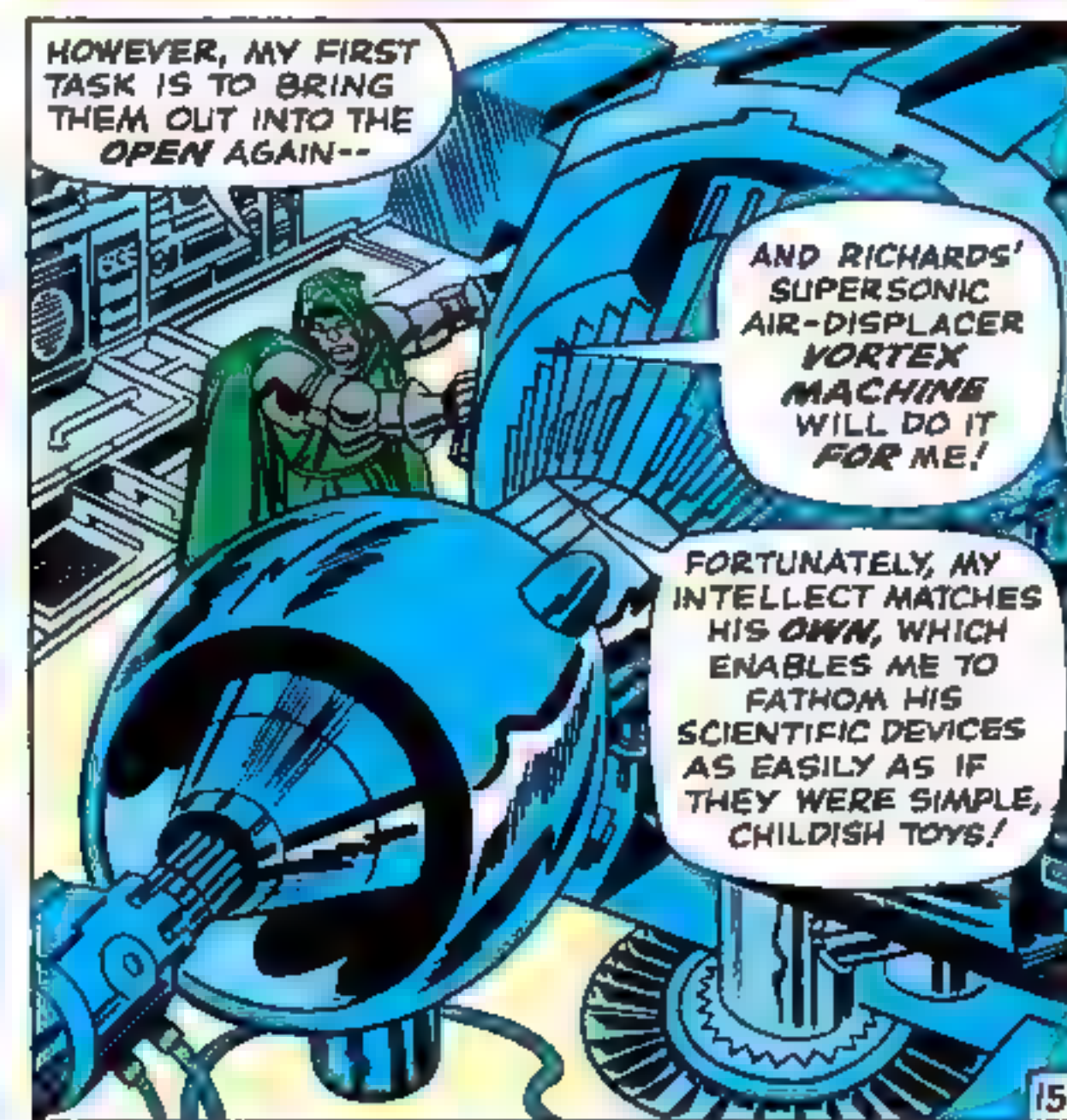
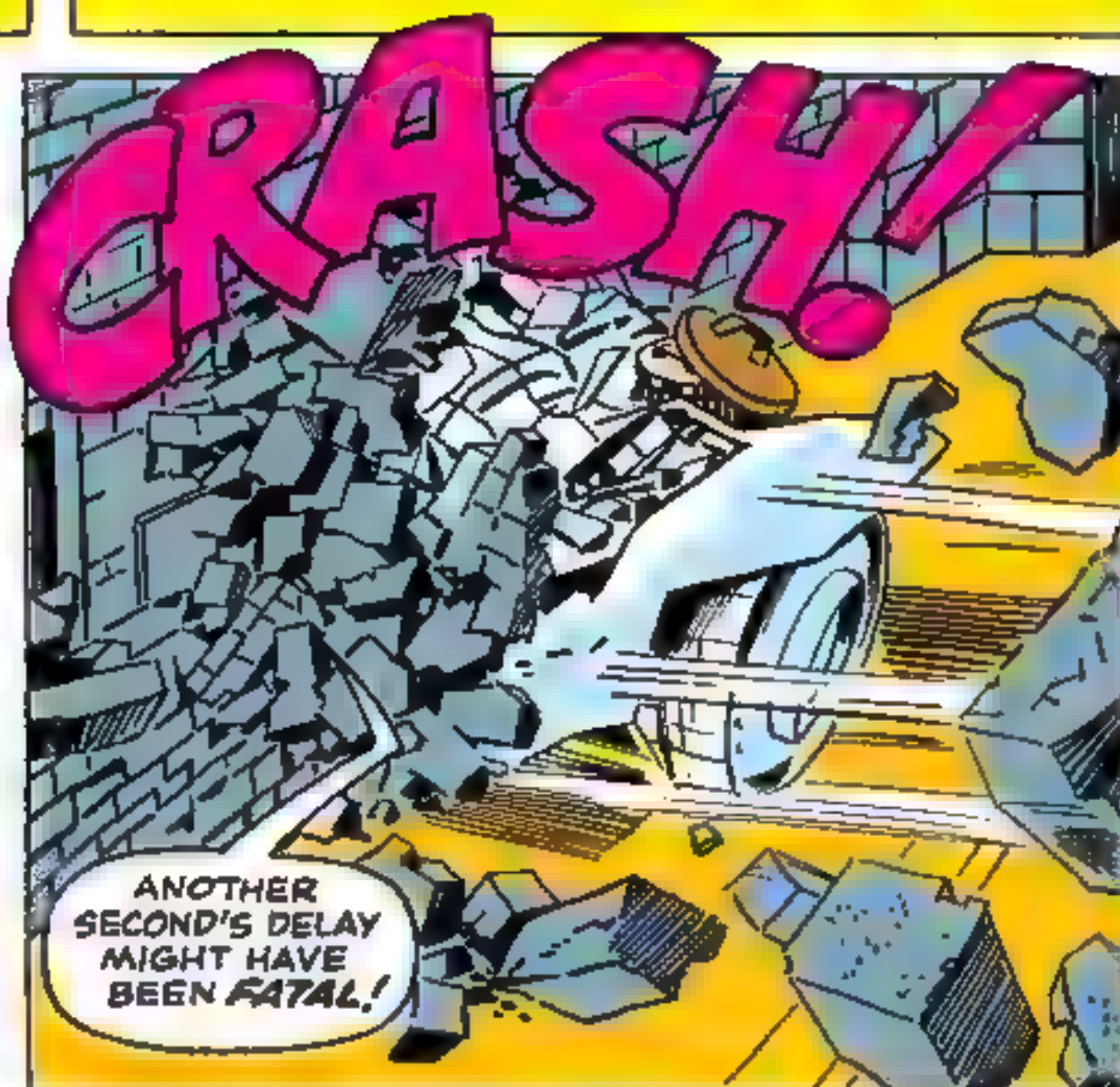
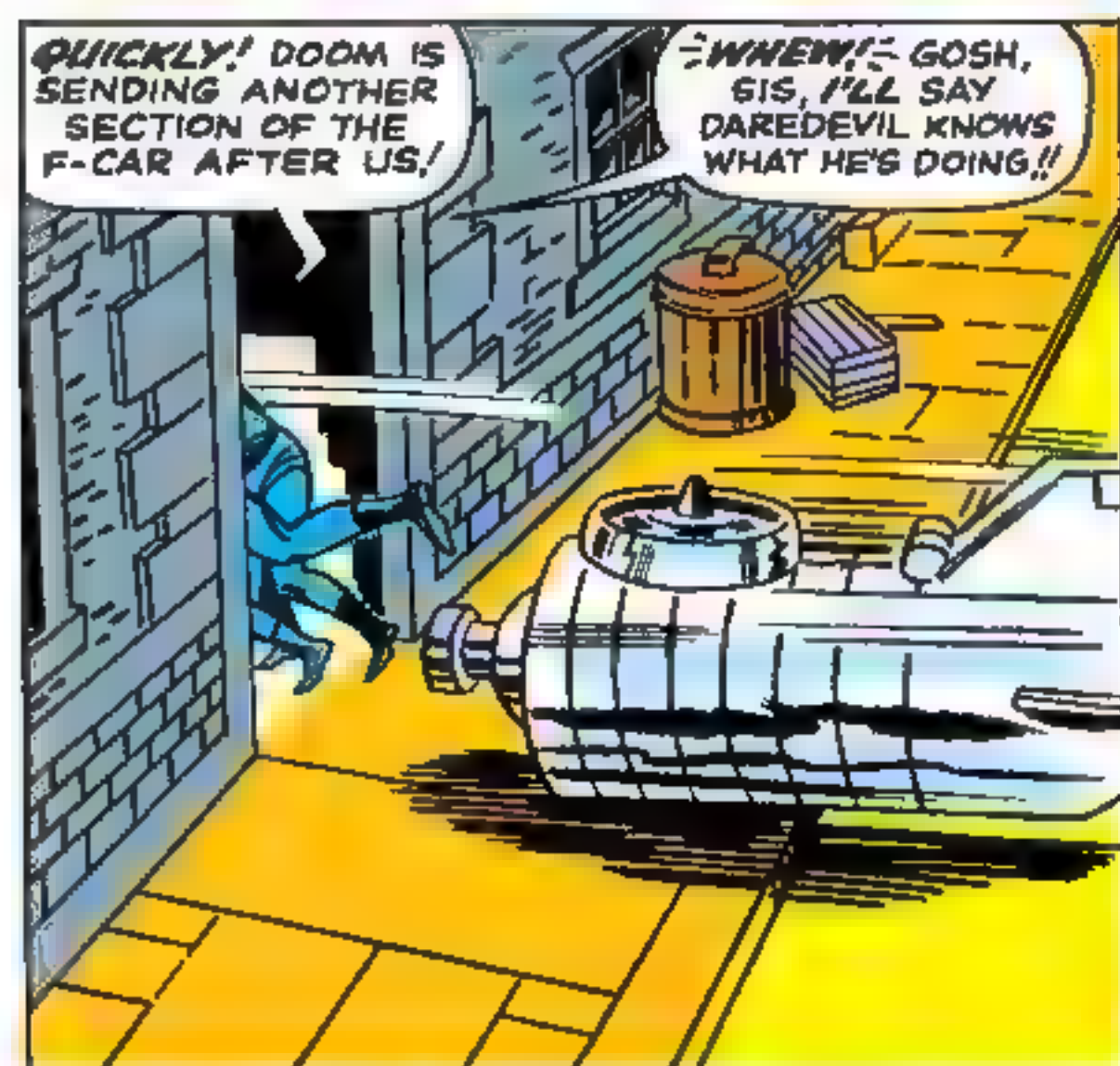


ALMOST FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN
FOLLOW, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
DROPS HIS STARTLED BURDEN, SPIN-
NING AROUND AND LEAPING TOWARDS
THE TRAPPED BEN GRIMM AS
UNERRINGLY AS A PROJECTILE--!

MY ONLY
CHANCE
IS TO
DUCK--!

NO! THE
IMPACT
MIGHT STILL
GET YOU!
STAND STILL!
TRUST ME--!





THUS, THE POWERFUL VORTEX RAY, WHICH CAN GENERATE THE FORCE OF A DOZEN HURRICANES-- CREATED BY MR. FANTASTIC AS AN AID IN WEATHER CONTROL, BECOMES A DEADLY WEAPON UNDER THE EVIL GUIDANCE OF DR. DOOM...



WITHIN SECONDS, THE CONDEMNED WAREHOUSE, IN WHICH THE F.F. AND DAREDEVIL HAD SOUGHT SHELTER, BECOMES A MASS OF WHIRLING BRICK AND RUBBLE...



AT A TIME LIKE *THIS*, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VISION! I KNOW THE BUILDING IS BEING DESTROYED -- BUT I CANNOT SENSE THE MEANS BY WHICH IT IS BEING DONE!

THIS POWERFUL AIR PRESSURE-- THE FLYING DEBRIS-- IT MEANS ONLY ONE THING! DOOM IS USING MY VORTEX MACHINE! WE CAN'T STAY HERE-- WE HAVE TO SEPARATE!

GOOD! THAT TELLS ME WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW!



ALTHOUGH LACKING THEIR FABULOUS SUPER POWERS, THE VALIANT FANTASTIC FOUR, SEASONED BY COUNTLESS EPIC BATTLES, STILL MANEUVER AND ACT WITH THE SPEED AND DARING FOR WHICH THEY ARE RENOWNED! AND, AS FOR DAREDEVIL...

I DUNNO HOW YOU FOUND YOUR WAY THRU ALL THAT SMOKEY RUBBLE, BUT I'M SURE GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW YA!

IMAGINE HIS SURPRISE IF HE KNEW A BLIND MAN HAD LED THEM!

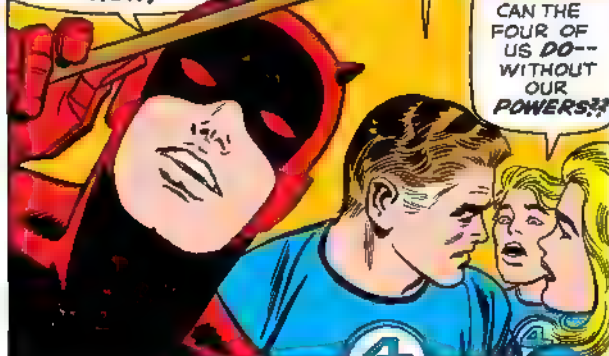
WE'RE IN THE CLEAR NOW! BUT WE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER!



LISTEN CLOSELY! THERE'S NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! SEPARATE IMMEDIATELY! WE'LL EACH RETURN TO THE BAXTER BUILDING FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

DOOM MIGHT BE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW!

BUT WHAT CAN THE FOUR OF US DO-- WITHOUT OUR POWERS??



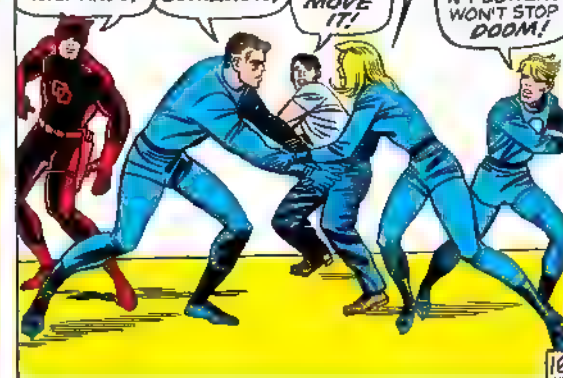
YOU MEAN THE FIVE OF YOU, TORCH! DAREDEVIL ISN'T DESERTING YOU NOW! READY, RICHARDS?

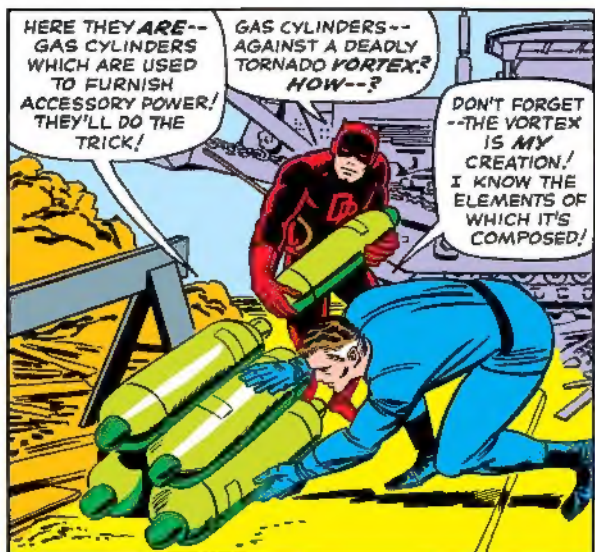
READY! TAKE CARE, MY DEAREST! DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD! WE'LL WIN OUT SOMEHOW!

WHETHER WE DO OR NOT, DARLING-- REMEMBER HOW I LOVE YOU--!

LET 'ER GO, REED! MOVE IT!

C'MON, SIS! HEARTS 'N FLOWERS WON'T STOP DOOM!





THE VOTEX IS DESTROYED!
AGAIN THEY'VE ESCAPED
ME! BUT, I'LL FIND
ANOTHER WEAPON TO
USE AGAINST
THEM!

HOWEVER, THE MAIN
PROBLEM IS STILL UN-
SOLVED-- WHY DO THEY
KEEP FLEEING? WHY
DON'T THEY ATTACK?

IF I DID NOT KNOW
BETTER, I'D THINK
THEY POSSESSED NO
SUPER POWERS WITH
WHICH TO STRIKE
BACK AT ME!

AND THAT OTHER--
WHO FIGHTS WITH
THEM--HE SEEMS
TO BE THE ONE WHO
HAS TAKEN THE LEAD!
BUT-- THAT IS
IMPOSSIBLE!! OR
-- IS IT??

IT MUST BE THE ANSWER! IT'S THE ONLY
EXPLANATION! I'VE BEEN SUSPECTING A
TRICK-- I WAS TOO CAUTIOUS TO REALIZE
THE OBVIOUS-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE
POWERLESS!

NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS FOCUS RICHARDS'
OWN TV RADAR TRACKER COMPONENTS
ON EACH OF THEM, AND PICK THEM
OFF EFFORTLESSLY, AT MY LEISURE!

NO! THAT WILL BE TOO
EASY! I'LL TOY WITH
THEM A WHILE LONGER!
THIS IS TOO GLORIOUS
A SITUATION--IT MUST
LAST AS LONG AS
POSSIBLE!

I'LL BEGIN BY HOUNDING THEM WITH
ONE OF RICHARDS' FORCE BEAM
PROJECTILES! ONCE AIMED AT A
HUMAN TARGET, THE VICTIM'S
OWN HEARTBEAT KEEPS IT ON
COURSE!

